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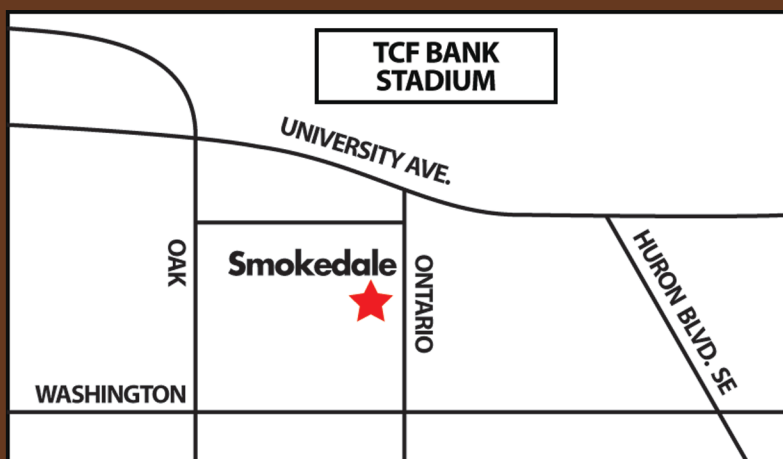
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Welcome to the LAVENDER[®] YELLOWPAGES

Tempora mutantur nos et Mutamur in illis (Times change and we change with the times)

It is no surprise to see the election victory on the Marriage Amendment this year. We knew we would win in 1993. That year, for the first time in our history, an American Judge ruled, in Hawaii, that the State of Hawaii could not deny us our rights to marry. We'd tell our friends that "We have just won the war for equal rights." Our friends looked at us incredulously and thought we were mad. They were surprised and optimistic, but that faded soon when voters in Hawaii ruled that the judge was out of line. The judge was not out of line, just advanced in the thinking about what was obvious. We were thoughtful and guarded. We pondered: "It will take a generation, but we have just won because someone in society realized the silliness of the situation. Why on earth would anyone deny a fundamental right to marry to anyone?"

It is good for society to have people form family units, take responsibility for each other, plan for the future and retirement, and be happy, healthy, and productive economic units generating wealth that can be taxed. The family is the basic unit of society that provides the cohesion in society. The family is the basic economic unit that makes decisions about what is best for the family in its own interest. The family pulls together, takes care of one another, helps, guides the young, educates, and provides that portion of life where you could always go back and start over if need be. It is, generally speaking, a positive experience. Many of us know, however, that the truth is in the details.

A lot of biological families have been supportive, kind, helpful, sympathetic, understanding, or always there for us. But how many of us know someone kicked out of a family unit because they came out, or dared to be themselves? Some of us have had to make new families of choice, some eventually repaired the break with biological units, and some of us have gone on alone. Society needs the foundations of family. To traditionalists we say to study demographics to enlighten yourself as to the changes occurring around you. What was, is still; what is, is here; what will be is debatable. So what does it matter if, in the end, the name stays the same but the sampling is a bit different? Or we change the name a bit but the sampling stays the same? Not much really. Tempora mutantur nos et Mutamur in illis, or as our teachers used to say to us, "Times change and we change with the times."

Society has moved along, the republic has not collapsed, some things will move two steps forward, and one step back. So in the end what is the hullabaloo all about? God knows, or more precisely, the use of religion by some to justify their devilry. When will people sit down, read their history, understand the nature of change, time, and space, and realize that the old always gives way to the new eventually, and that the concepts of democracy proceed apace without serious interruption once again? Dictatorships move faster, but democracy shoots far fewer people. We will opt for democracy: guided, misguided, moving inexorably forward. Our hero Winston Churchill said that, "You can always count on Americans to do the right thing—after they've tried everything else."

BRAVO!!!



Stephen Rocheford

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President and CEO
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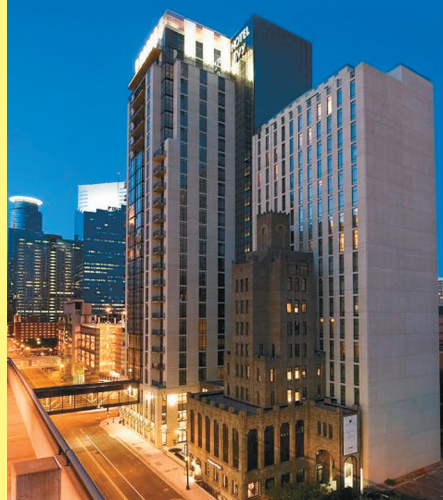
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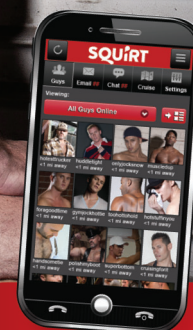
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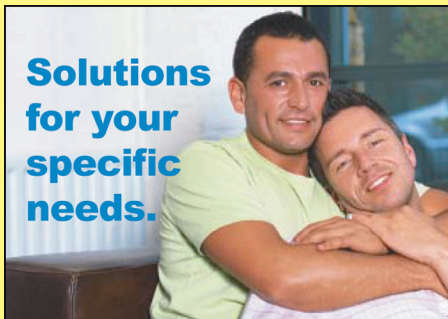
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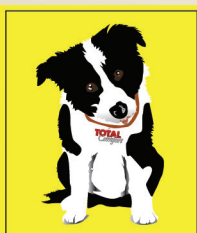
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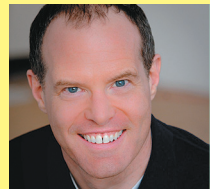
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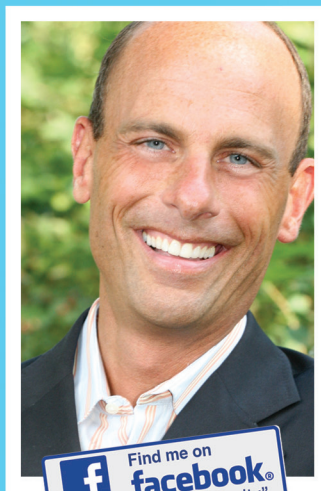


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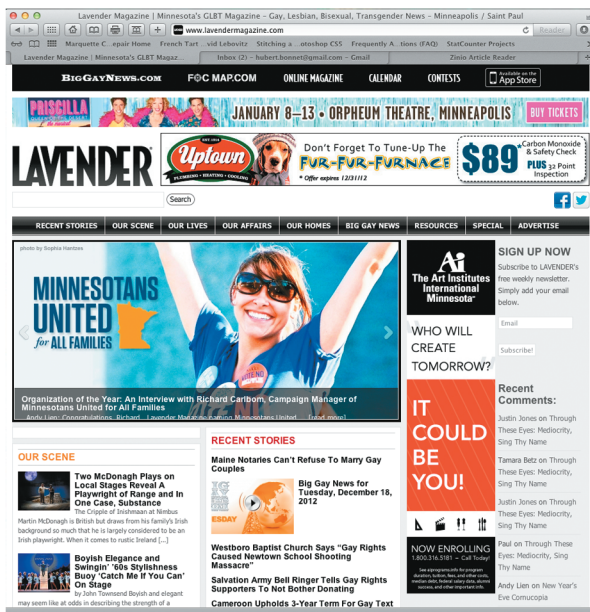
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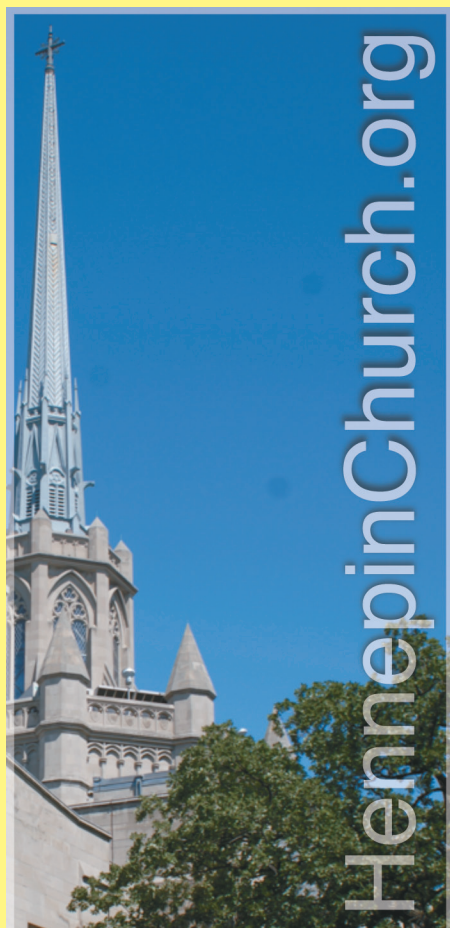
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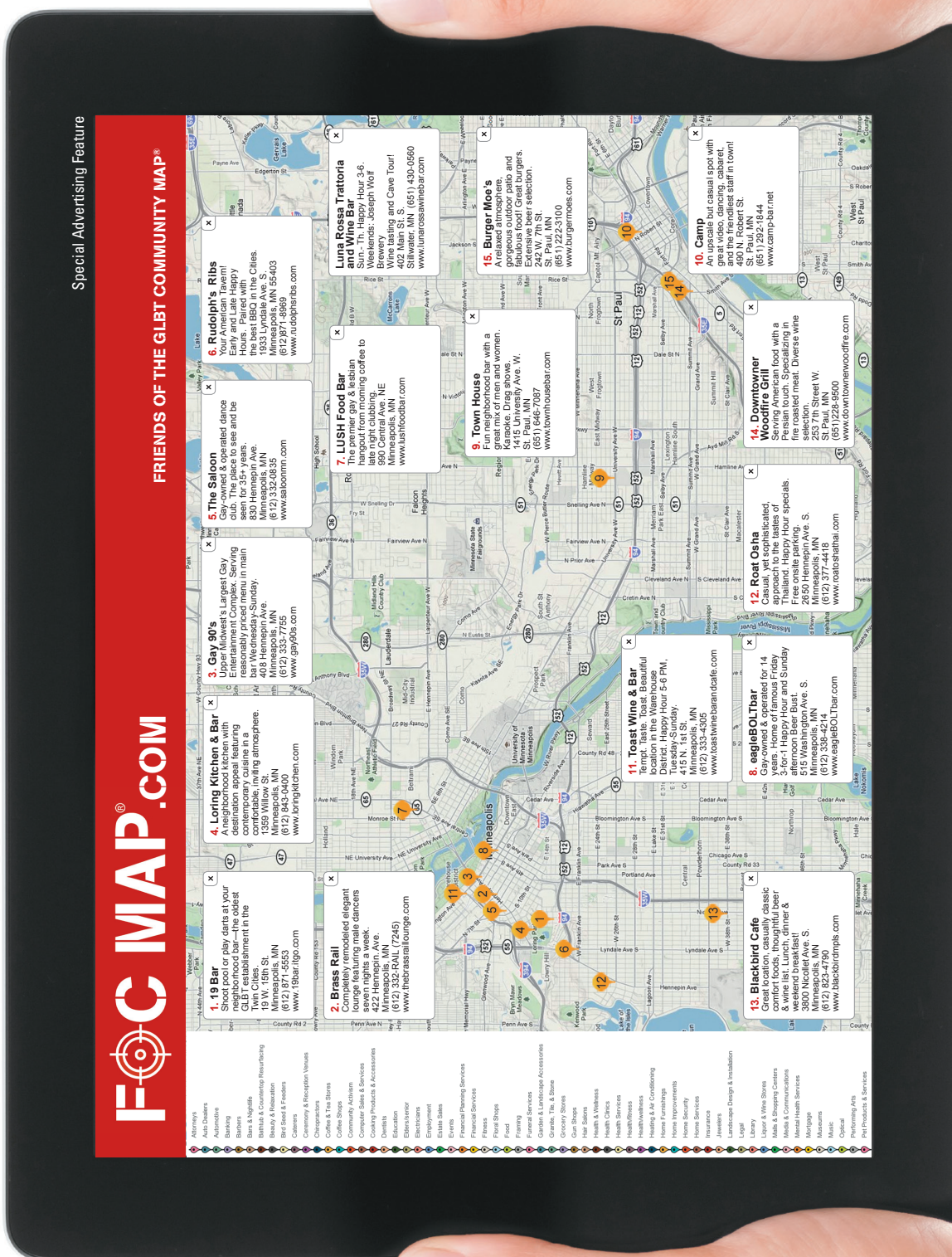


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